

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/664,833
P24138.A03 (S 1010/US)**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

A complete listing of the claims is as follows;

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

an external sole and an upper, the boot extending longitudinally between a heel and a tip;

the upper including an outer envelope and an inner envelope, the outer envelope being affixed to the external sole;

a mechanism for tightening the inner envelope, the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope including at least one lace and keepers affixed to the inner envelope;

the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope further including at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer ~~envelope~~ ~~envelope, the rear keeper being located~~ substantially in an area of the heel of the boot, said lace extending through said at least one rear keeper and through a plurality of said keepers affixed to the inner envelope;

the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope does not include any keeper affixed to the outer envelope forward of a forwardmost one of said at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer envelope.

Claim 2. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 1, further comprising:

an insole to maintain shapes of the outer envelope and the inner envelope, the outer envelope and the inner envelope being affixed to the insole at respective bases.

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Claim 3. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the outer envelope and the inner envelope are connected to one another by respective bases.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the inner envelope is a liner removably mounted within the outer envelope.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the least one rear keeper comprises two rear keepers, one of the two rear keepers being located on a lateral side on a lateral quarter of the outer envelope, another of the two rear keepers being located on a medial side on a medial quarter of the outer envelope.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the keepers affixed to the inner envelope and the at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer envelope are loops associated with the inner envelope and the outer envelope, respectively.

Claim 7. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 6, wherein:

the loops of the keepers are made with folded strap portions.

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Claim 8. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the rear keeper is a folded strap portion to form a loop, the portion being V-shaped, the portion being formed of first and second strands affixed to the outer envelope at spaced apart locations, the first strand being affixed to the outer envelope slightly forward of the heel, the second strand being affixed to the outer envelope rearward of the first strand and slightly above the heel.

Claim 9. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the foot, and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of a user's lower leg.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the at least one rear keeper is affixed to the outer envelope in the area of the heel of the boot.

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the at least one rear keeper is affixed to an inner surface of the outer envelope in the area of the heel of the boot.

Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

said outer envelope is relatively flexible for facilitating walking and inclinations of a wearer's lower leg.

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Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the outer envelope is affixed to the external sole by means of an adhesive and/or stitching.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) A snowboard boot comprising:

an external sole and an upper, the boot extending longitudinally between a heel and a tip;

the upper including an inner envelope and a flexible outer envelope, the outer envelope being affixed to the external sole and having a flexibility for facilitating walking when not mounted on a snowboard and for facilitating inclinations of the upper while steering a snowboard;

a mechanism for tightening the inner envelope, the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope including at least a first ~~one~~ lace and a plurality of keepers affixed to the inner envelope;

the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope further comprising a mechanism for both retaining a wearer's foot with respect to the inner envelope and retaining the wearer's foot with respect to the outer envelope, said mechanism including at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer envelope substantially in an area of the heel of the boot, said first lace extending through said at least one rear keeper and through a plurality of said keepers affixed to the inner envelope;

a mechanism for tightening the outer envelope, the mechanism for tightening the outer envelope including a second lace and a plurality of keepers affixed to the outer envelope, said plurality of keepers affixed to the outer envelope being additional to said rear keeper and additional to said keepers affixed to the inner envelope.

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Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A snowboard boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the inner envelope is a removable liner not glued or stitched within the snowboard boot.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A snowboard boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the least one rear keeper comprises two rear keepers, one of the two rear keepers being located on a lateral side on a lateral quarter of the outer envelope, another of the two rear keepers being located on a medial side on a medial quarter of the outer envelope.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A snowboard boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the keepers affixed to the inner envelope and the at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer envelope are loops associated with the inner envelope and the outer envelope, respectively.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 17, wherein:

the loops of the keepers comprise folded strap portions affixed to the outer envelope substantially in the area of the heel of the boot.

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Claim 19. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the rear keeper is a folded strap portion to form a loop, the portion being V-shaped, the portion being formed of first and second strands affixed to the outer envelope at spaced apart locations, the first strand being affixed to the outer envelope slightly forward of the heel, the second strand being affixed to the outer envelope rearward of the first strand and slightly above the heel.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the wearer's foot, and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of the wearer's lower leg.

Claim 21. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the outer envelope of the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the wearer's foot and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of the wearer's lower leg;

the inner envelope of the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the wearer's foot and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of the wearer's lower leg;

the keepers affixed to the inner envelope comprise a first plurality of keepers affixed to the lower upper portion of the inner envelope and a second plurality of keepers affixed to the upper lower portion of the inner envelope;

said first lace extends successively through keepers of said first plurality, through said at least one rear keeper, and through keepers of said second plurality.

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Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) A snowboard boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the at least one rear keeper is affixed to an inner surface of the outer envelope in the area of the heel of the boot.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) A snowboard boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the outer envelope is affixed to the external sole by means of an adhesive and/or stitching.

Claim 24. (*New*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the rear keeper comprises a strap affixed against an inner surface of the outer envelope.

Claim 25. (*New*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

said one lace of the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope comprises a first lace;

the boot further comprising a mechanism for tightening the outer envelope, the mechanism for tightening the outer envelope including a second lace and a plurality of keepers affixed to the outer envelope, said plurality of keepers affixed to the outer envelope being additional to said rear keeper and additional to said keepers affixed to the inner envelope.

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Claim 26. (New) A boot according to claim 1, wherein:

the inner envelope of the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the foot, and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of a user's lower leg;

the outer envelope of the upper includes a lower portion provided to surround the foot, and an upper portion provided to surround a portion of the user's lower leg;

said keepers affixed to the inner envelope comprises a first plurality of keepers affixed to the lower portion of the inner envelope and a second plurality of keepers affixed to the upper portion of the inner envelope;

said lace extends successively through keepers of said first plurality, through said at least one rear keeper, and through keepers of said second plurality.

Claim 27. (New) A boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the rear keeper comprises a strap affixed against an inner surface of the outer envelope.

Claim 28. (New) A boot according to claim 14, wherein:

the mechanism for tightening the inner envelope does not include any keeper affixed to the outer envelope forward of a forwardmost one of said at least one rear keeper affixed to the outer envelope.